

January 12, 1950.

Dr. T. R. Hogness, Director,
Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics,
University of Chicago,
Chicago 37, Illinois.

Dear Dr. Hogness:

I have given very careful consideration to the proposal in your letter of December 20, 1949, of an appointment in the Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics.

At least for the present, I have decided to remain at my present post. I am not unappreciative of the generosity and confidence that are embodied in your proposals. Accordingly, I owe you some mention of the considerations which underly this decision.

Partly, it is based on simple conservatism or inertia. But, I have been here a relatively short time- not long enough to form a definite perspective of the ultimate opportunities, and limitations. Consequently, I may entertain hopes of future prospects at Wisconsin which are perhaps more optimistic than they should or will be. Finally, I feel that I owe some obligation to the unfinished task of consolidating genetic techniques and viewpoints into Wisconsin's preeminent research and graduate training in microbiology.

That I shall not be joining the staff in no way detracts from my sincere good wishes for the continued and growing success of the Institute, nor from my hope that microbial genetics will play a leading role in the further growth of its research program.

May I express my appreciation to the officers of the Institute and of the University for the compliment entailed in these proposals, and for the cordial hospitality which attended my visits.

Yours sincerely,

JS/

Joshua Lederberg